

UNDERWOOD & ASSOCIATES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

A DESIGN/BUILD Co.

June 7, 2013
Thomas Armitage, Ph.D
Designated Federal Officer
USEPA Science Advisory Board (1400R)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

**Re: EPA SAB Nominees for Connectivity of
Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A
Review and Synthesis of Scientific Evidence**

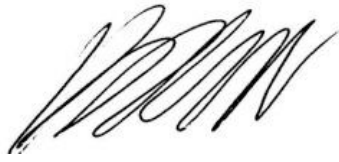
Dear Dr. Armitage:

I am writing to express my support for Mr. Joseph Berg, Senior Ecologist at Biohabitats, Inc. as a candidate to serve on US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) to review and synthesize the scientific evidence on the "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters." Mr. Berg has served and continues to effectively serve on multiple committees and panels, including, but not limited to: International Union for Conservation of Nature's Commission on Ecosystem Management - Resilience Task Force; EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Urban Stormwater Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Stream Restoration; EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Sediments Workgroup; Maryland DNR Wetland Resource Management Plan Advisory Committee; EPA National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) external peer reviews of Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Graduate Fellowship applications in the area of Aquatic Systems, and; Island Press and the Kresge Foundation Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange Advisory Committee. He is also on the Editorial Board of American Water Resources Association's publication *Impacts*.

Furthermore, he is a tireless professional with a keen understanding of the hydrologic, geomorphic and biologic connections of fully functioning aquatic systems. To this end, he has presented at over 50 national and regional venues on the advantages of integrated stream, wetland and floodplain restoration, with the first such presentation back in 1985. He has also provided invaluable consultation on numerous successful stream and wetland restoration projects, such as the award winning Lizard Hill Wetland Creation Project, which is a 20-acre wetland restoration project aimed at establishing a sand seepage habitat for a threatened tree species, the Atlantic White Cedar. Such success not only requires scientific expertise on the ecology of streams and wetlands, but also an interdisciplinary understanding of the intricate hydrologic, and biogeomorphic connections between wetlands, streams and downstream waters.

Mr. Berg's breadth and depth of committee experiences and understanding of these inexplicable links between the aquatic resources throughout the landscape makes him highly qualified to serve on EPA's newly forming SAB as a reviewer of the draft science synthesis report "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KU', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending from the end.

Keith Underwood
Principal
Underwood & Associates